The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter examines briefly and fearlessly all of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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OPPOSE CONTROLLED LABOR

Indianapolis, Sept. 22.—The United Mine Workers' Journal opposes legislation that would compel employes to work pending investigation of grievances. The Canadian industrial disputes investigation act, which prohibits strikes and lockouts in public utilities before a government board is appointed, is referred to as following:

"Our experiences with the Canadian law has been that it is generally effective in curbing the workers from enforcing their economic power through organized resistance, while it is utterly helpless to curb the employers when they seek to oppress, even by denying the fundamental rights of the workers.

"A case in point—the Vancouver Island strike; in spite of the fact that the board appointed under the trades dispute act fully justified the position of the miners, the managers refused to abide by the decision and were furnished every legal and extra legal aid to break the resistance of the workers.

"In cases where the decision of such an arbitrarily constituted board went against the workers, and they refused to abide by such decision, even the commonest safeguards, the right to free speech, free assembly, have been arbitrarily denied them, and the decision of the board held as a judgment in law, and eventually levied upon the workers.

"Above all, we hold that compulsory arbitration includes involuntary servitude, and any effort on the part of state or nation to enact a law which in effect would force an ouvrier, contrary to all labor power, as individuals or collectively, must be regarded as a reversion to the times when a workingman was considered as the property of the owners of the land and of the industries, and must be compelled by the strong arm of the ditch.

"In any measure that might specify only those engaged in interstate transportation could easily be amended to include those engaged in other industries once the principle was established. To safeguard the ill-cities we have won through centuries of unceasing struggle, it behooves us to jealously guard against any attempt to enact a law for compulsory arbitration, for in the end, such a law would include involuntary servitude."

FAVORS EIGHT HOUR LAW.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 22.—The railroad chiefs of the country were not opposed to the eight-hour day, contrary to the opinion that has prevailed throughout the country," said President P. D. Underwood, of the Erie Railroad, at Milwaukee, in an interview in a local paper.

"There is a general feeling that the eight-hour day is coming, and no doubt it will come, and it ought to come," he said. "The eight-hour day law will cost the Erie Railroad $1,000,000 a year. I do not believe additional legislation is needed by Congress on this question.

"The interstate commerce commission can take care of the raise in rates if any should be needed. Congress has set up the interstate commerce commission to take care of railroad matters. If the commission could take care of both wages and rates, there would be no objection, because the commission is unquestionably honest and capable.

"Mr. Wilson, however, was not playing politics. He was doing what he honestly believed was for the good of the country.

"No one could associate with Mr. Wilson, as the railroad men of the country did during these negotiations, and charge him with playing politics in any way. Only some newspapers disappointed the President worked for political effect."

MOLDERS ON STRIKE.

Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 23.—All the molders of the plants of the National Supply company, the Toledon Foundry and the Donovan Foundry companies are on strike. The demands are for nine hours for a nine-hour day and a minimum wage of $4.00 a day. Business Agent Otto Roach and International Organizer H. W. Clements of Grand Rapids, Mich., are the officials in charge of the trouble. Every man in the three establishments came out at the call of the officers, and 95 per cent of them secured jobs in the other foundries where the scale is paid and the hours were granted.

With this exception the three shops which are struck owing to having refused the demands of the men, and which are being run with every other foundry in Toledo and Fremont and district is paying the demands of wages and hours.

ADJUSTED OUT OF COURT.

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 22.—The new compensation law recently put in force in this State as the result of the continued agitation of the trade unions, and during good results. Out of 1,656 industrial injuries reported to the Workmen's Compensation Board only one claim for compensation has been submitted. All the others have been or are being settled "out of court," which means that both the employers and employes are agreeing upon a settlement or are submitting the state of facts to the board or one of the members and adopting without contest the compensation recommended.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—A thorough investigation of government ownership and control of railroads, telegraph lines, express companies, and of the entire transportation and other public utilities will begin November 26, Senator Newlands announced in an address before the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. The investigation will be by the joint sub-committee composed of the Interstate Commerce committees of the House and Senate, of which Newlands is chairman. The investigation would be conducted in accordance with President Wilson's recommendations to Congress.

WAGE INCREASE ANNOUNCED.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 22.—An increase in wages of from 10 to 25 per cent has been announced by the Tri-City Railway Co., of McKeesport. The advance affects 1,700 men and is the direct result of the scarcity of labor in that section. Company labor is refusing to work for less than 30 cents an hour. The subsidiary companies of the Westinghouse companies have also endeavoring to secure labor at 25 cents an hour through advertisements in the daily papers, but without much success.

GRAND TRUNK INCREASES PAY.

Montreal, P. Q., Sept. 23.—About $500,000 a year will be added to the payroll of the conductors, brakemen, firemen and trainmen in the employ of the Grand Trunk Railway by a revision in the pay schedule, it is announced. The new rates are effective from Sept. 1.

INCREASE FOR ENGINEERS.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 22.—Stationary Engineers of this city have signed up a two year agreement with the Boss Butchers and Packers Association, which provides for a substantial increase in wages, and improved working conditions.

MAY START UNION BANK.

San Francisco, Cal., Sept. 23.—Serious consideration is being given to the question of establishing a bank to be controlled by the trades unions of this city in the near future. Investigations have been made that partially justifies such a move and many of the leaders are favorable to such a move.

Discussing the subject, Supervisor Andrew J. Gallagher, with whom the idea originated, says: "For some time past I have been giving serious thought to the establishment of a trade union bank in San Francisco. I have talked the matter over with a number of local labor men, state officials and a prominent banker of this city, all of whom think the plan feasible. They are unanimous in the opinion that such a bank should be established for the protection of the labor movement, particularly in times of industrial strife. I may shortly present a concrete proposition to the San Francisco Labor Council.

"It is a matter of record that during the past some of the banks have been used against the unions during strikes and lock-outs. Certain banks have refused to loan money to the unions, and on the other hand, have loaned money to the enemies of labor. This has been done in New York, in which some of the labor unions had deposits."

FEW IMMIGRANTS COMING.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Immigration into the United States is still at a low ebb, while emigration is on a large extent, is still far below figures of the days of steel mines in 1907.

Figures just given out at the Department of Labor show immigration into the country for the month of August 1 to September 8, was 47,431. This is an increase of about 25 per cent from the corresponding period in 1915, but for 1913, the number of aliens arriving at all ports of entry was 184,622. The chief increases this year over last are from Greece, Mexico, Portugal and Spain.

Although there is an increase this August over last, the rate of increase is not enough to give promise that this month's total back anywhere near figures before the war in the near future. Before the war, the annual arrival of aliens was running well above a million a year. For the fiscal year 1916, it dropped below 500,000, the lowest figure in many years.

EMPLOYERS PROMOTE THRIFT.

Chicago, Sept. 21.—There is an effort going on among employers in this city to encourage thrift among their employes, to get them to save some of their money for future investment and rainy days. The way suggested to encourage thrift is to take an employe's bank book any day and return it with such part of his pay as he desires credited to it. This makes a sure thing of his saving, and relieves him of all temptation to spend. It confirms the habit of economy, and before the employe knows it he has a comfortable sum laid up.

Another way is for the company to use the employe's savings, through a definite agreement, and pay him 5 or 6 per cent, and thus use his savings in the conduct of its business. Still another way is for the company to add 1 per cent to the 3 per cent allowed at the bank. This is an old way, and has been tried in business, but it has been found to pay. Other methods are adopted, and they all benefit both employer and employe.

Most workers prefer to handle their own savings.

SUIT-CASE WORKERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 22.—The entire army of suit-case workers, including many girls and women, have revolted against the harsh conditions in the numerous shops throughout the city. They are asking for a raise in wages from 25 per cent to 50 per cent for piece workers, and a minimum wage of $18 per week the early part of the week. Conditions have been unsatisfactory for many months, but the last push to the signal to quit work found the employes willing for the test of strength with their bosses.

The total number on the strike line is 1,000. The trade is paralyzed and the shops tied up.

This is the first general strike in the history of the trade. Negotiations will be had to be done to assure a substantial victory, as the strikers realize that the future will be decided by what results are obtained in the present revolt.

SPINNERS' CONVENTION.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 23.—Reports to the annual convention of International Spinners' Union, which was held here, it was showed that during the past year conditions had greatly improved and that wage advances had been secured ranging to 15 and 20 per cent.

Forty delegates representing 26 districts, attended. Resolutions urging a general eight-hour workday for women and children favoring health insurance were adopted.

The officers elected were: President, George Tinsley, Rockford, Ill.; vice president, Samuel Ross, New Bedford; secretary, Urban Fleming, Holyoke, and treasurer, Thomas O'Donnell, Fall River.

STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CUT.

Erie, Pa., Sept. 23.—The Erie Breakshoe company, war munitions manufacturers, on Monday, in the hands over of its unorganized employes because of an attempt to reduce wages on its accumulated rush orders. The men, however, failed to quit good wages and were rendering good service. The company believed they would be compelled to withdraw the wage notice to that effect and the strike followed. Similar action by other war munitions manufacturing war munitions is expected to follow in the next few weeks, owing to the fact that thousands of men employed men will increase as soon as the weather curtails the amount of outdoor work.

BUYERS TO SAVE MILLION.

Yonkers, N. Y., Sept. 22.—A fine of $100 imposed on a Chicago packing company by City Court Judge Hugo Hirsch, and it a decision which will cost the meat packers of the country $1,000,000 a year if approved by the higher courts, according to their attorneys, and will save this sum to the consumers.

The complaint of the municipal sealer of weights and measures Judge Beall found that meat packers' guilty of having violated the law by charging for meat containers the same price as for the meat.

NOLAN IS POPULAR.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—John I. Nolan, San Francisco's union labor congressman, was again been renominated at the primaries, receiving both the Republican and Democratic nominations. Nolan is in a field all his own, for he frankly and fearlessly declared that he had never been and would not promise to be bound by any party ties—but that he would always be loyal to labor!

CATS MAKING LAWS FOR MICE

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, in American Federationist.

When the land question was under discussion in the British House of Lairament which consisted wholly of land owners, John Bright thus characterized the situation, "We are now in the parliament of the cats making laws for the mice." The same characterization applies exactly to the Kitchin-Hayes trade union bank bill which Mr. John D. Rockefeller, jr., has worked out for the labor problem. The industrial war which has lasted for months in the mines of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company stirred the conscience of John D. Rockefeller, jr., who felt compelled to do something to better the situation in Colorado." He had publicly announced that "he preferred that every cent he had invested in Colorado rather than recognize the union and permit the mines to establish better conditions in accord with their own ideals.

As Mr. Rockefeller would not recant he was compelled to devise a new system. He secured the advice of professional humanitarians and then advertised that he had "solved" the labor problem and would establish industrial democracy. His plan provides for a maze of committees each of which is assigned to deal with some matter that affects conditions of work. The miners are to elect representatives to serve on these committees. The committees meet with the representatives of the company and consider all "grievances" that shall refer to them. An appeal may be taken from the decision of the committee and may be carried through a succession of committees. An "adjustment" may come after many committees and many months. Superficially the plan provides for the adjustment of any complaint or misunderstanding that may arise. It provides everything for the employer except that which is essential for influence in industrial affairs—power.

Like the parliament of cats making law for the mice, Mr. John D. Rockefeller and his advisers have formulated a scheme that protects employers. He presumes to say that the miners can secure justice and solve their problems without the power, and he pretends they can do this in dealing with the company, which is backed by all of the power of 26 Broadway. But the elaborate machinery of the Rockefeller labor solution (the cats) can not any longer deceive the mice. Already the report comes that the miners of Colorado want real unions—organizations affiliated to the United Mine Workers of America. A trade union like any other organic institution has as the result of natural growth. An artificial substitute, even though labeled "just as good" by the Rockefeller Publicity Department, will not replace the trade union organization that is the outgrowth of years experience and a response to human needs.

HE BLAMES THE GOVERNOR

Lansing, Mich., Sept. 23.—Every charge brought against the United States Steel Corporation by the striking steel workers in Gary, Minnesota is sustained in a report just submitted to Governor Burnquist by his labor commissioner, Frank Day.

Miners have been exploited by the contract system, cheated, oppressed, forced to give up their time after the mine captains, arrested without warrant, fined without trial, and subjected to "serious injustices" at the hands of the mine guards and police. This is the substance of the findings.

Mine guards employed by the company, deputized by Sheriff Meining with the consent of the governor and supported by Governor Burnquist, are to blame for all disorder. The report says:

"We are not dealing sympathy with the belief that vigorous measures were necessary to maintain peace and safety in this strike. We are entirely satisfied that the mine guards have exceeded their legal rights and duties and invaded the citizenship rights of the strikers; that such violence has been used by them to help the mine guards and police than to the strikers; and that the public peace officers elements have not exceeded the needs of the situation, and have perpetrated serious injustices upon the strikers.

"Numerous cases of arrest without warrant, and unfair trials in the justices' courts were brought to our attention. We will go into these cases in detail, as the facial merit have promised a thorough investigation, but we are seriously impressed that the mine guards should have been compelled to remain on the property or disarm when they left it."

ADJUSTS TWO STRIKES.

Denver, Col., Sept. 23.—President Charles H. Moyer, of the Western Federation of Miners, has returned from Henrietta, Mont., where he successfully ended two weeks negotiating a settlement of the strike of the Henrietta smeltermen, which was formally declared July 1, and has reached under which the men on strike were all to be reinstated in their former positions and the company agreed to join in the employment of workmen to operate their smelter there shall be no discrimination against any applicant for employment because of his membership in any bona fide labor union.

He also held a conference with representatives of the striking smeltermen at Rich Hill, Mo., who had been on strike for several weeks, and a part of the settlement was outlined which was accepted by the company. The men returned to work without discrimination. President Moyer reports the outlook favorable for organization among the smeltermen of the Southwest.

NEW OFFICERS CHOSEN.

Springfield, Mass., Sept. 23.—George H. Wrenn, president of the Springfield Central Labor Union, and Martin T. Joseph of the Electrical Workers' Union, Local 168 of Boston, were unanimously elected president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the State branch of the American Federation of Labor, which held its annual convention in Springfield.

Joseph J. Hunt, the retiring president, refused a renomination, but was unanimously elected to represent the state branch at the next convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The legislative committee was instructed to present a bill to the next general court asking for the appointment of judges as a means of protecting the health and happiness of workers, as it is claimed that judges have construed the ill-fated laws passed for the protection of laboring people.

TRAINMEN REFUSED.

Worcester, Mass., Sept. 22.—Trainmen of the Boston and Albany railroad refused to handle a carload of imported strikebreakers that were on their way to New York City to be used in connection with the street railway strike. The car reached Worcester attached to a passenger train and it was intended to send it over the New Haven road to New York. The railroad men refused to switch the car onto another track or do anything to do with it and it was sent back.

MOTHERS TO THANK WILSON.

New York, Sept. 23.—A delegation of Essex county mothers whose children will join social workers in a journey to the summer residence of President Wilson, Shadow Lawn, in Shadow Lawn, for the passage of social legislation during the session of the last Congress. The delegation of mothers will go with the express purpose of thanking him personally for the legislation which he helped to pass, to emphasize the importance of that law.

STRIKE IN PAPER MILL.

Westbrook, Me., Sept. 23.—About 800 employes of the Cumberland paper mill are on strike, asserting that they were forced to take that action in order to protect their union which the company is endeavoring to destroy. The men held a conference with the company officials, but were not able to reach an amicable adjustment of the differences and the strike followed.

AN INCREASE FOR THE MOVIES.

Denver, Col., Sept. 23.—The Moving Picture Operators Union has reached an agreement with all the principal theater managements of the city for a new wage schedule which became effective last week. It carries an increase of from 25 to 50 per cent, according to the class of theater.

ENDORSES EIGHT-HOUR DAY

San Francisco, Sept. 23.—Mr. Kelleher, the senior member of the firm of Kelleher & Brown, while discussing the eight-hour workday, said:

"We have operated now for nearly three years on the basis of an eight-hour workday. We abolished the piece-work system, together with a ceaseless daily period of toil, and our operatives are now paid twice the wages based on an eight-hour workday. The results have been so satisfactory that our customers and patrons are even better pleased than they ever were before. Our mechanics and foremen are showing a gratifying and increasing accuracy, and all of our workers are demonstrating a greater productivity. The men themselves come from that genuine interest and pleasant relationship between employer and employe that flows from mutual fairness and justice.

"We are so thoroughly satisfied with the eight-hour workday and the union's system of collective bargaining that rather than go back to the dreary drudgery of nine, ten or more hours under the piecework we would quit the business."

THE PRINTING INDUSTRY.

Washington, Sept. 23.—A review of the printing and publishing industry of the United States in the years 1914 and 1909 is given by the United States bureau of census in the summary of the results of the 1914 study of that industry. The five-year period showed increases in number of establishments and in the value of products.

According to the classification adopted, the industry is made of three branches: (1) Establishments engaged in book and job printing; (2) establishments whose business is newspaper printing; and (3) establishments engaged in printing and publishing newspapers and periodicals, some of the first named doing job work also.

The number of establishments in this industry in 1914 aggregated 24,612, and the total value of their products amounted to $1,833,587,000. These establishments increased 6.2 per cent, and 22.3 per cent, respectively, over conditions those in 1909. Also 757 establishments, with products valued at $662,591,959.

PLASTERERS WIN.

New York, Sept. 23.—About seven hundred plasterers who have been on a strike for this city since the first of the month, returned to work on their own terms. The boss plasterers have adopted the new scale of the union. The men on strike were only part of the total union strength of 2,500 men not affected, their employers having accepted the new arrangements. Called for a scale of labor affecting the amount of work a man should perform a day and the introduction of new stewards to see that this amount or work was performed.

A considerable number of men not on strike have a three years' agreement with the boss plasterers affiliated with the Building Trades Association of New York. The men who struck were employed by boss plasterers not affiliated with the Building Trades association and who were known as "independents."

DEMAND WAGE INCREASE.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 22.—At a meeting here of organized cigarmakers representing all the local districts of Pennsylvania, it was decided to make a unanimous demand, with effect December 1, for $2 more per 1,000 cigars made. Eighty-five per cent of the cigarmakers voted in favor of the new rate.

Otto Eisenlohr & Bros., and Myers & Adams Company, two of the largest cigar manufacturing firms in York, Pa., announced an increase in wages of 50 cents per thousand for their workmen, evidently attempting to anticipate the demand for the increase decided upon.

PAPER BOX MAKERS WIN.

New York, Sept. 23.—The general strike of the paper box makers has been declared off after the girls and men who had been on strike for five weeks won a settlement from the manufacturers that gave them a 50-hour week and a 10 per cent increase in wages. The workers declared that the country is staying with their organization to help in the campaign for a 180 per cent organization of the industry in Manhattan.

REACH AN AGREEENT.

Baltimore, Sept. 23.—The employes of the Crown Cork and Seal company have declared off the strike, three days when the company refused to concede an advance in wages demanded. Several conferences were held with the representatives of the company which finally resulted in an agreement whereby an increase of 2½ cents was agreed upon. The concession proved acceptable to all the people involved and work has been resumed.

HORSESHOERS ASK INCREASE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 23.—The Horseshoers Union has demanded that their scale be increased to $2.75 per day, 8 hours, half holiday on Saturdays during June, July, August, and September, and better working conditions. The demand was rejected by the boss horseshoers and the men struck. Some of the shops have conceded the conditions demanded.

ASK EIGHT HOURS AND RAISE.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 23.—Shopmen of 22 western railways, it was announced, have demanded an increase of 5 cents an hour and an eight-hour day. Unless their demands are met the employes threaten to start a general movement for a strike.

ITS CROWN OF THORNS.

New York, Sept. 21.—The following pertinent and pointed editorial appeared in a recent issue of the World:

"The net earnings of the principal railroads of the country increased only 3½ per cent during the last fiscal year. The total net revenue of these roads was only $1,176,856,000, an increase over last year of only $36,969,000.

"These are the railroads that are about to be raised by an eight-hour day which will add to their operating expenses $60,000,000 a year, according to the railroad presidents, and $20,000,000 a year according to the brotherhood chiefs.

"Taking railroad figures as a basis, an eight-hour day would decrease the net revenue to a paltry $1,116,856,000, which in turn would be barely $56,969,000 in excess of the total net revenue of last year.

"It ought to be plain enough to anybody that the railroads are sure to be ruined by an eight-hour day. No wonder they appeal to the Democratic shipowners to intervene and prevent the government from pressing this crown of thorns upon the brow of Wall Street. Such a picture of railroad poverty and destitution as the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission present for each mile of road, as against $1,129 in 1915, $1,093 in 1914, $1,181 in 1913, and against $758 last year. The net revenue each mile was $470, compared with $381.

DROVE THE AGENTS OUT.

Philadelphia, Sept. 23.—More than twenty-five strikebreaking agents, who were here gathering up men to send to New York as strikebreakers, were virtually driven from the city by officials of the State Department of Labor and Industry. Not one of them had a State license, as is required by law, and when the State officials were informed of the fact prompt action was taken and instructions given to arrest them. As soon as the agents were aware of the activities of the department they got out of the city, in great haste, leaving behind some of them left their papers and clothing in their hotel rooms. An official of the Department of Labor and Industry said:

"We propose to prosecute them to the limit. They will be let off with fines, but we'll press for jail terms. In the last few weeks six such agents were arrested for working without licenses. This city seems to be a favorite place for these men, who ply their trade unscrupulously, and many times send workers to distant points and then leave them stranded."

REFUSED TO CLUB STRIKERS.

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 23.—"If the employers want me to protect them by clubbing the striking machinists into submission, they are disappointed," said Sheriff Melms, after riot notices had been served on him by the Beaver Dam Manufacturing Co. as a corporation and by sixteen officers and employes. "The machinists have a right to strike if the strike could be, and at no time have I been unable to cope with the situation. The action of the employers makes the county liable for any damage caused by rioting.

Local deputies have reported that in a conversation between two of the company's officials after a meeting of the board, "I think the thing to do with these men (the pickets) is to crack their heads open."

DESIRE AN INCREASE.

Washington, Sept. 22.—A committee representing various classes of workmen at the eastern navy yards and including those at the Philadelphia yard, met today with Acting Secretary Roosevelt at the Navy Department with a view to an increase of wages, the high cost of living was the main topic of discussion.

The men are said to have been encouraged by the recent increase of the railroad employes in getting an eight-hour day to believe that the administration would be ready to readjust navy yard wages on a similarly liberal basis.

Specific request was made for the wage scale at the various yards for the calendar year 1917 be announced as early as possible instead of waiting until nearly the end of that month, as had been the practice in the past. The request probably will be granted.

CIGARETTE WORKERS STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 22.—Seven thousand girl cigarette makers have begun a strike in New York for a 50 per cent increase. The demand of the cigarette workers is for an eight-hour day and time and a half for overtime.

The American Tobacco Company has decided to move its plants to Richmond, Va., and Durham, N. C., and is now transferring the machinery started today.

Unless the strike, now in progress, is called off, the shipments of machinery will be delayed. The action of the company is not being taken seriously as it is no doubt a bluff to scare the strikers into returning to work.

ACT IS CONSTITUTIONAL.

Philadelphia, Sept. 23.—The workmen's compensation act of 1915 has been sustained as constitutional by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Brown, writing the opinion of the court, passed away after the technical objections. The United States Supreme Court has held that it was within the power of the State Legislature to pass laws compelling employes of labor to compensate their employes for injuries received in the course of their employment without regard to the question of negligence.

The decision clears the way for legislation at the next session of the Legislature in accordance with the recommendations of the committee appointed last November, authorizing the making compulsory of the workmen's compensation act.

NEW BOILER MAKERS UNION.

Geneva, N. Y., Sept. 23.—International Vice President Ryan of the Boiler Makers has just completed a new union in this city which will include all the men engaged in making boilers as well as their helpers. Mr. Ryan is credited with reporting that the International has been making rapid progress recently, 30 new unions being organized and reorganized.

CEMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Sept. 23.—Cement workers in this district in their strike have won higher wages. About a score of contractors have signed agreements for 35 cents an hour and union recognition.

NEW WAGE SCALE IN FORCE.

San Francisco, Sept. 22.—United Laborers' Union reports that all its members are employed and that all employers are now paying the new wage scale of three dollars per day for eight hours work.

A. F. of L. POWER DEFINED

Chicago, Aug. 21.—The Journeymen Tailors' union of America conducted a referendum election for officers, and the Tailor, its official paper, says editorially:

"From reading the communications published in the Tailor touching the election of delegates to the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, we are led to the conclusion that a misunderstanding exists in the minds of the writers as to the scope and power of the convention of the A. F. of L.

"In the first place, the writers overlook the fact that the American Federation is a voluntary organization, drawn together by the realization of the necessity of closer unity of the working class, which would enable them to be of mutual assistance to each other.

"This coming together of the different groups composing the American Federation does not cause any one group to lose its autonomy or its identification. It does not bring about a variance with the original intentions of the people who by their own free will come together with the object of holding friendship and assistance in the hour of need.

"No organization would think of going into the A. F. of L. if it knew that by so doing they would be giving up the right to manage their own business as they see fit. It is safe to predict no union will ever do so.

"There is quite an analogy between the plan of organization of the United States and the American Federation of Labor.

"The national unions hold the relationship to the A. F. of L. that the states hold to the national government. The A. F. of L. stands in the same hold the same relationship to it that the different counties hold to the state. The state or national union cannot act contrary to the agreement made at the time the states formed a federation. Neither can the American Federation make a law that would abridge the rights of any national."

FREE LAND IN UNITED STATES.

Washington, Sept. 23.—Secretary of the Interior Lane announced that more than 259,000,000 acres of public land in the United States to be taken over by homeseekers as soon as they can get off with trains to Michigan and Florida to Washington and Oregon, according to the census. A summary of the land:

Alabama, 22,680; Arizona, 22,597,219; Arkansas, 1,447,215; California, 20,025,599; Colorado, 14,908,127; Florida, 135,387; Idaho, 11,759,361; Kansas, 561,600; Louisiana, 44,804; Michigan, 90,540; Minnesota, 286,304; Mississippi, 30,374; Missouri, 852; Montana, 34,961,600; Nebraska, 1,000; New Mexico, 35,275,077; New Mexico, 26,333,379; North Dakota, 381,199; Oklahoma, 55,250; Oregon, 15,237,120; South Dakota, 2,000,000; Utah, 22,968,327; Washington, 1,132,571; Wisconsin, 15,872; Wyoming, 25,324,402. Total, 254,945,538.

IT'S PRESIDENT SNELLINGS.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 22.—At the convention of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, which opened its annual work in this city Saturday last, Milton Snellings, of Washington, was elected president, defeating President Alan Bowman by a vote of 70 to 58. Other changes has held the position of first vice president, which goes to Snellings. The new officers chosen are: M. Huddell, of Boston, first vice-president; William MacLeod, of Providence, second vice president, and Joseph Muntfering, of Brooklyn, third vice-president. The fourth Vice-president is Mr. Bowman, and the fifth is George M. Jenkins, of East St. Louis. James J. Hannahan, general secretary-treasurer, was the only administration officer who succeeded himself.

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

Portland, Ore., Sept. 23.—One of the big features of the week in this city will be the joint legislative committee of the Grange, the Farmers Union and the Central Labor Council. The purpose of the formation of this alliance was the main feature of the Labor Day exercises. Addresses delivered by State Master Jay Bowerman of the Grange; President C. D. Brown, of the Farmers' Union, and President Paul Smith, of the Central Labor Council, were characterized by earnestness and unanimity. Wilbur Fisk Tillett, the fifth is George M. Jenkins, of East St. Louis. James J. Hannahan, general secretary-treasurer, was the only administration officer who succeeded himself.

TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

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MAURER PROTESTS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 21.—James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, today received eleven affidavits to Governor Brumbaugh in which charges were made that the strikers of Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Scranton into and dispersed a crowd of men leaving a labor meeting in one of the theaters of Wilkes-Barre. In this there was no evidence of trouble or disturbance. The governor accepted the affidavits, but has no idea of what he intends to do was given out.

NEW UNION IS GROWING.

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 23.—The new union of furniture finishers, recently organized in this city, has increased in membership rapidly, it was organized by John Baker with more than one hundred members and that number has been greatly increased. For some time there has been much technical dissatisfaction among the furniture finishers of this city over working conditions and the low wages paid, and the new union is the result of the persistent agitation that has been brought on.

IOWA FIREMEN ORGANIZING.

Sioux City, Iowa, Sept. 23.—President Strief, of the State Federation of Labor, has issued a call for a meeting here of the various city firemen of the state. Sioux City was the first city to fall into line, Council Bluffs, Fort Dodge and Marshalltown are now ready to follow the lead of this city and just as soon as President Strief can complete the necessary preliminary work each of these cities will have a charter and the first delegates to probably attend delegates to the International Union that is now under consideration.

METAL WORKERS STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 23.—A strike of metal workers involving 5,000 men was declared here at a meeting of the Chandelier Metal Workers' Union of America. Increased wages, shorter hours and a closed shop are demanded.